

Evaluation in Support of an Adaptive NCA Process

WG 7: Engagement, Communication, and Evaluation

NCADAC Meeting
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Emily Cloyd
WG7 Co-Chairs, NCA staff support



A word about “evaluation”

- Noted hesitation about evaluation at August NCADAC meeting
 - Understandable but based on outdated notion of “evaluation as report card”, rating of personal or organizational performance
 - Evaluation is not just about evaluating certain outcomes but about creating learning environments
 - Kathy: “Let’s make new mistakes next time!”
- WG proposes to **reframe evaluation** as
 - efforts undertaken to enable internal learning in support of the ongoing, responsive, and effective assessment process*
- Scope: NCA process, outputs, and outcomes (not just NCADAC)
- Benefits:
 - Supporting long-term success, i.e. meeting both legally required objectives and strategic goals; maintaining institutional memory; keeping it fresh



NCA as a “learning organization”

- Why change over time?

Definition: A learning organization is one that is able to change its behaviors and mindsets as a result of experience and reflection.

- **We are learning already!** – The Third Assessment is very different from the First or Second Assessment
- **Ambitious goals** of the Third Assessment won't and can't be met on first try
- **Changing cast of characters** involved
- **Changing needs** of policy- and decision-makers due to
 - Changes in climate
 - Changes in interacting, non-climatic stresses
 - Changes in scientific understanding
 - Changes in management
- **Need to be ready for and responsive** to unforeseen changes



WG work to date

- Development of an overarching NCA logic model
- Development of strategies (with goals and indicators of success)
 - NCA Strategic Plan
 - NCA Engagement, communication, participation strategy
- WG discussion of scope, audience and mechanics of tracking our progress
- Tracking of variety of activities and indicators
- Further work needed: tracking progress, impacts, reception, and usefulness of NCA



Sample tracking mechanisms

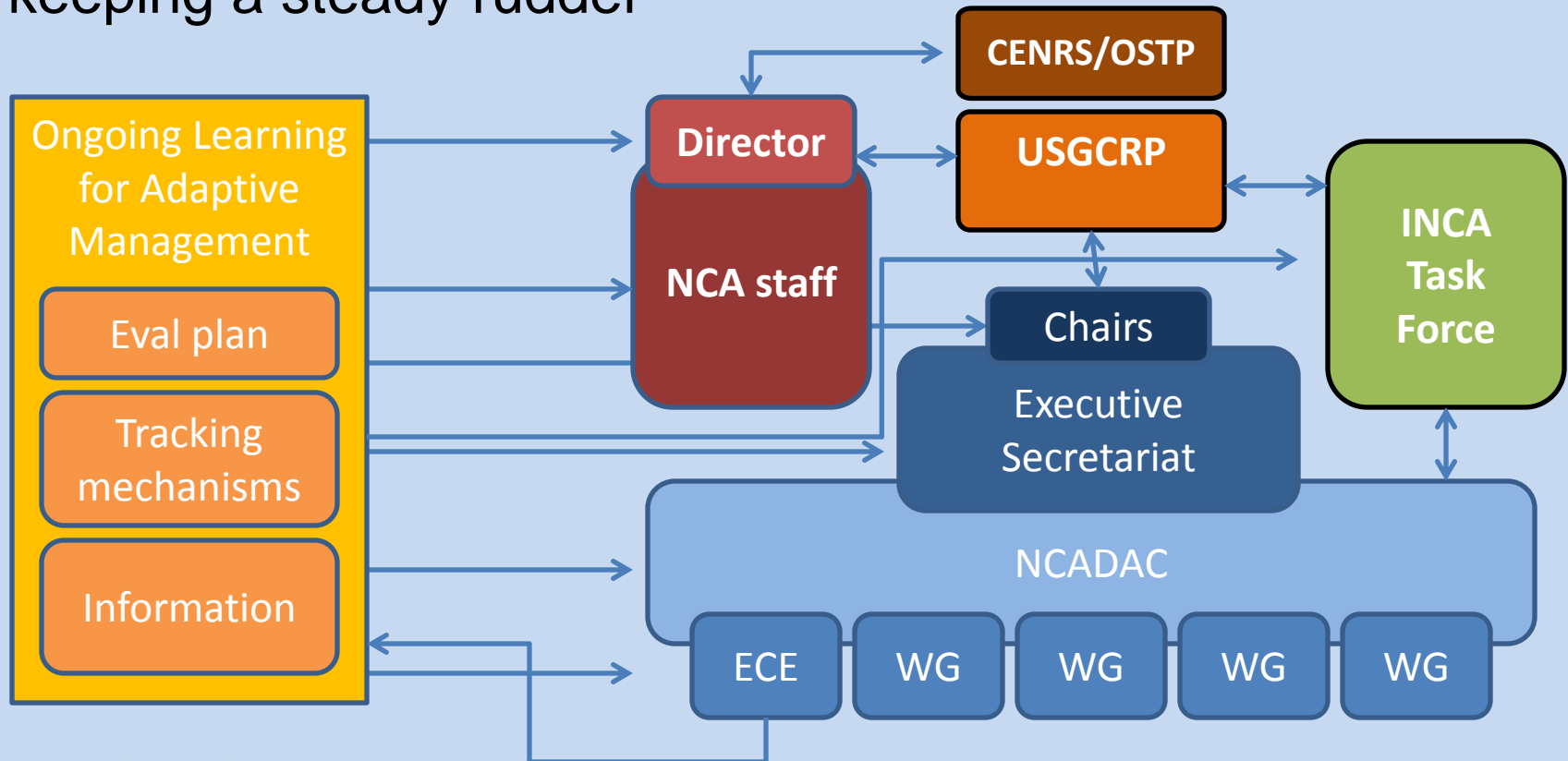
Tracking mechanism	What we get?	Why?
Social Network Analysis	Information about who is engaged in the NCA, how, how frequently; who are we missing	In support of stakeholder engagement
Peer review of NCA report <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - NRC - Scientific peers - Government experts - Public 	Peer review of documents re: technical accuracy, comprehensiveness, balance	Assurance of accuracy, relevance, accessibility, and credibility of reports and outputs
World Café events <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - with public - with NCADAC 	Input on experiences, framing of NCA, information needs, key issues in need of creative input	Generate demand for assessment; take 'pulse' on information needs, NCA process; specific input; opportunity to inform about NCA process, findings

Sample tracking mechanisms (cont.)

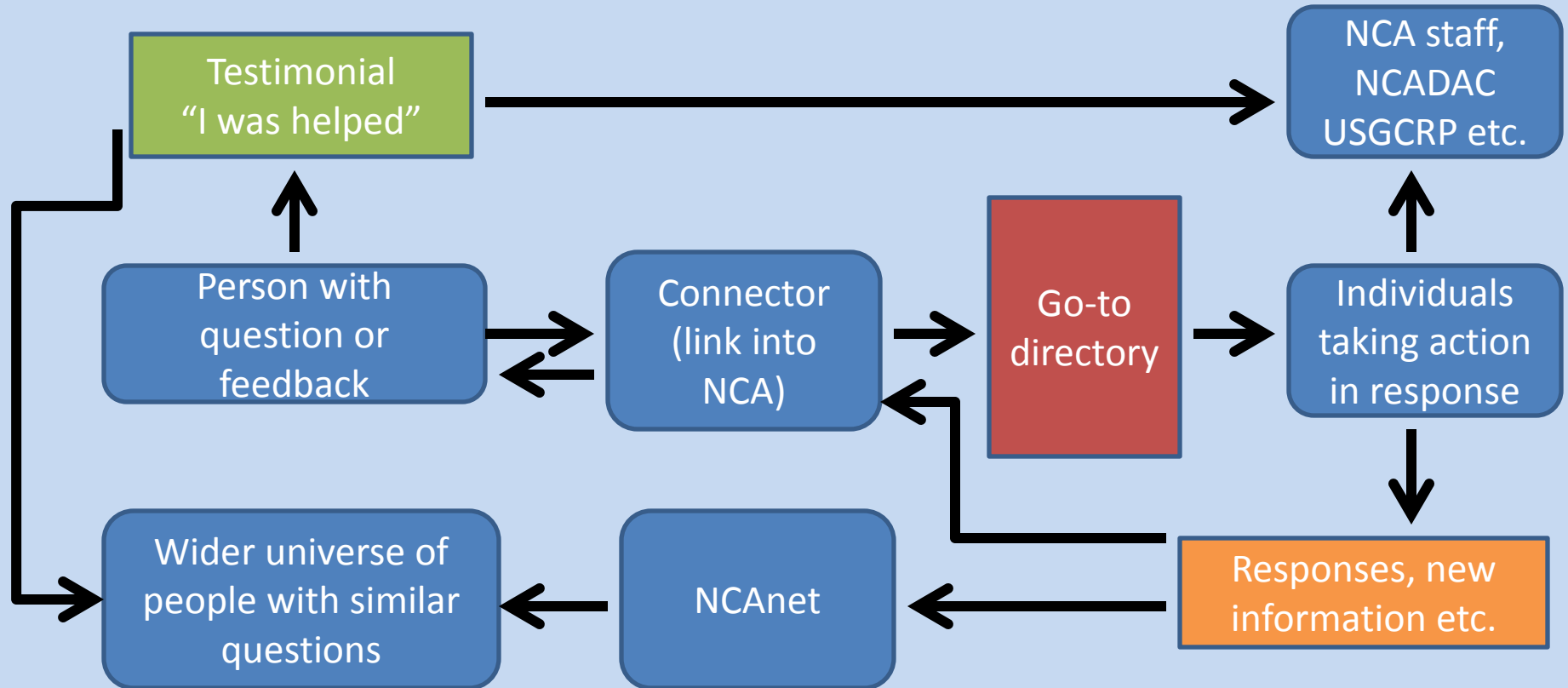
Tracking mechanism	What we get?	Why?
Feedback request to regional and sectoral teams (guidance doc)	Written feedback on regional, sectoral activities, report writing and expert and stakeholder engagement	Documented feedback from regions/sectors in standard format to central office
Regular meetings of regional and sectoral team leads	Oral feedback on regional, sectoral activities, report writing and expert and stakeholder engagement	Fresh feedback from team leads to central office; exchange of experiences and learning among team leads
Regular NCAnet listening sessions	Tracking of what NCAnet members do (that we may not otherwise hear about)	Extended tracking; network members exchange ideas

Formal feedback links

- Balance between providing ongoing feedback and keeping a steady rudder



Example of a simple feedback loop



For discussion

- **Feedback on the reframing** of evaluation as *efforts undertaken to enable internal learning in support of the ongoing, responsive, and effective assessment process*
- **Scope** of what we evaluate?
- What is/are the **audience(s)**?
- Other ideas for **tracking mechanisms**?



Next steps

- Ongoing partial tracking of efforts, e.g., active solicitation of feedback from sectoral and regional teams
- Collect your ideas and feedback (email to Emily Cloyd and Susi Moser) and explore further
- Develop an “organized plan” to guide the NCA in tracking, providing and integrating feedback, and related decision-making
- Develop a “go to” directory for feedback
- Proposal, adjustments and approval at future NCADAC meeting



Thank you!

- Susi Moser (co-chair)
- Ed Maibach (co-chair)
- Emily Cloyd (NCA staff)
- Julie Maldonado (NCA staff)
- And other occasional NCA staff visitors
- Other WG members (in alphabetical order):
 - Dan Abbasi
 - Maria Blair
 - Lynne Carter
 - Camille Coley
 - Ari Georgakakis
 - David Hales
 - Sharon Hayes
 - Mark Howden
 - Cathleen Kelly (through Sept. 30)
 - Diana Liverman
 - Lindene Patton
 - Susan Ruffo (since October 1)
 - Aaron Smith